

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

This policy has been prepared in accordance with the Ministerial Order 90. Additional support material is available in the DEECD School Policy Advisory guidelines.

Background

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. It can affect many body systems including the respiratory and cardiac system. The most common triggers in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (eg. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings, berries, seeded vegetables and some medications (eg. antibiotics)

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens) and prevention of exposure to these triggers. These allergens can be ingested, inhaled absorbed or injected into the body system. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.

Adrenaline given through an AAI (Adrenalin Auto Injector, eg. Epipen) to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Purpose

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Individual Management Plans

The principal will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner.
- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.
- The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA ~ 'The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy', Action Plan), provided by the parent/carer, that:

- Sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
- Is signed and dated on the day the medical practitioner treats the child. (ASCIA action plan).
- Includes a photograph of the student.

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers:

- Annually, or as applicable
- If the student's condition changes, or
- Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to:

- Ensure the device is current
- Provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
- Inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).

Communication

The principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents/carers about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.

The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.

The principal will be responsible for informing parents about our whole school approach and safe practices to avoid anaphylactic situations arising while students are in our care. Where applicable, request a receipted copy to say that people have read and understood the expectations.

Volunteers and casual relief staff will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by a staff member.

All staff will be briefed bi-annually on the following:

- The school's anaphylaxis management policy
- The causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- The identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
- How to use an A.A.D.
- The school's first aid and emergency response procedures

Emergency Response

At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

Allergy alert details are displayed in staff areas in case of an emergency.

The school's first aid procedures and students' emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.